

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over United States Patent No. 6,060,383 to Nogami. Claim 7 has been cancelled in this Amendment.

Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to more clearly define the invention.

Claim 1 as amended recites the limitation that "said first and second electrically conductive layers and said vias are configured such that said second bus of said first electrically conductive layer is ultimately electrically connected to said first bus of said second electrically conductive layer yet said vias do not extend from said second bus of said first electrically conductive layer to said first bus of said second electrically conductive layer".

Claim 6 as amended provides that "said at least one bus of said first electrically conductive layer does not overlap said at least two buses of said second electrically conductive layer".

Nogami discloses a method of forming a multi-layered coaxial interconnect structure. As discussed at column 2, lines 1-8 Nogami deals with the issue of "capacitive cross talk between adjacent conductive lines" which results from the "miniaturization in the integrated circuits industry" which "has led to an ever constant reduction in separation between the conductive lines". As described at column 5, lines 50-56, Nogami discloses a first conductive pattern 43 which lies atop a second conductive pattern 45. As shown in Figures 7-12, 14, and 15, the conductive lines 42 which form the first conductive pattern 43 are perpendicular to the lines 82, 84, 86 which form the second conductive pattern 45. As best shown in Figures 10-12 and 14-15

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each of the lines of the second conductive pattern 45 overlaps each line of the first conductive pattern 43. As also shown, a via is provided between each conductive line of the first pattern and each conductive line of the second pattern.

Nogami does not disclose or suggest electrically connecting a line of one conductive layer and a line of another conductive layer without using a via extending between those lines. In addition, Nogami does not disclose or suggest electrically connecting a line of one conductive layer and a line of another conductive layer without providing an overlap of the conductive layers.

Applicant's invention provides for electrical connection between lines of different conductive layers without requiring overlap of the lines and without requiring vias extending between the lines.

Because amended claims 1 and 6 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Nogami, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of amended claims 1 and 6.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and claim 8 depends from claim 6. Applicant asserts that because claims 1 and 6 are allowable, claims 2-5 and 8 are also allowable. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claims 2-5 and 8.

Newly Added Claims

Claim 12 has been added in this amendment. Claim 12 recites a bus layout design¹ "wherein each said bus of said first electrically conductive layer does not overlap each said bus of said second electrically conductive layer". As noted above, Nogami disclose a layout design in which each line of the second layer overlaps each line of the first layer. Thus, Nogami does

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not disclose a layout design as recited in claim 12.

Because claim 12 is not anticipated by Nogami, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claims 12.

Claim 13 depends from claim 12. Applicant asserts that because claim 12 is allowable dependent claim 13 is also allowable. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 13.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable over the cited prior art and that the application should be passed to issuance.

Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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